SUBJECTS.

(8) that an attempt should be made to trace the Devaswom properties and separate the revenue, if it could be done;

Dewan.—Do you think it is an important matter?

Member.—To trace out all the old accounts for this purpose may be an impracticable task. But according to the present Settlement, the tenure of each property is known. Devaswom properties may be ascertained from the Settlement Registers.

(9) That any change in the present system of working, if contemplated by the Government, should be published and objections heard before passing final orders.

Dewan.—I shall look into the whole question carefully.

IX. Miscellaneous.

69. Not less than 20 members of the Assembly should be Mahomedans, that being one-fourth of the number of members for the Assembly.

Mr. Hussan Pillai (Member, Nominated) represented that it was well known to the Government that, of the three communities, Hindus, Mahomedans and Christians, the Mahomedans were the most backward. Their community, he said, was spread over the whole State, and their educational and other needs would not be adequately represented unless more representatives from their community were allowed in the Assembly. He pointed out that special privileges were granted to them in British India, in consideration of the fact that they could not secure the necessary votes for seats in the Legislative Councils, and he requested that at least one-fourth of the total number of representatives to the Assembly should be Mahomedans.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

A rule should be passed for the election of an adequate number of Ealava representatives to the Assembly with due regard to population and the status of the community.

Mr. Untaman Krishnan (Member, Nominated) urged the necessity of increasing the number of the Ealava Members in the Assembly, with due regard to their numerical strength and their importance in the State.

Dewan.—How do you propose it to be done. Do you want them to be nominated or elected?

The Member replied that he would like to have each taluk represented by an Ealava Member. He subsequently modified his statement by saying that at least 12 Members should be nominated, as the representation of each taluk by an Ealava Member was not feasible.

As the present system of election of the Members from the taluks fails to secure representatives from the Ealava community, the Government

Mr. Kumaran Asan (Member, Nominated) said that, considering the population of the Ealavas, who numbered six lacs, and the large interests they had in the State, their re-

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should nominate from the community an adequate number of Members every year based on some definite standard.

presentation in the Assembly was inadequate. The chance of more Members from this community being elected under the present system of election was remote, as would be evident from the fact that, till now, Karunagapally was the only taluk from which an Ealava was elected. The paucity of Elavas among the voters and racial prejudices were the chief causes that contributed to such a state of things. He pointed out that the British Government had provided nomination and separate electoral colleges for the adequate representation of minorities. Some similar steps, the Member said, should be adopted here also. The Member then urged the desirability of the Government laying down some definite standard by which nomination might be made from the Ealava community every year.

Dewan.—What is the principle you want to adopt ?

The Member replied that the nomination should be in accordance with the numerical strength of the community in the State.

Dewan.—You want a certain minimum to be fixed by the Government. I shall look into the matter and I hope to define our policy.

69. A proposal for giving a limited form of local self-Government to the villages (pakuthies) in the State.

Mr P. Kesava Pillai, B. A., & B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Quilon) said that the Government Proceedings, for drafting a Bill for Village Panchayats, made provision for the constitution of a Board for exercising judicial functions only. There were many works in the village to be attended to, such as the maintenance of village roads, buildings etc., which at present were looked after by the Proverthicaren. If the proposed Village Panhcayat Boards were to be given these and kindred administrative powers, it would help a great deal in improving the condition of the people. Similar Panchayats in Mysore were doing well. Though the villages here were not located like those of Mysore, yet there were many works, such as sanitation, vaccination, prevention of small-pox and cholera etc., to be attended to in the country parts. The Member pointed out that sufficient work would not be found for the staff of the Panchayats if they were solely judicial tribunals. The Member therefore prayed that the Committee now appointed for the purpose of drafting the Panchayat Bill be authorised to discuss the matter of investing these Boards with administrative powers also.

Dewan.—May you not bring this to the notice of the Committee.

Member.—The Proceedings of the Government limit the duties of the Committee.

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